1: Bowen-Jones, H., J.C. Dewdney, and W. B. Fisher. Malta: Background for Development. Durham: Department of Geography, University of Durham, 1961.

Pp. 356; introduction with complete list of contributors; 143 figures, including maps; 47 tables; 20 plates; bibliographies after each chapter; index.

Harvard: Econ 6153.553.

[This source draws from and summarizes the research of a large team whose members are listed after the introduction, on p. 9. As a geographical survey, the work emphasizes the physical environment and its integration with the cultural. This relationship is especially close in Malta, and as a consequence many aspects of the political and social life are reported, although with less detail as the environment is less a factor. Agriculture, land use and tenure, and the economic dependence on the colonial power are thus directly related; while many aspects of family and community life are treated more briefly if at all. The thorough geographic coverage is as complete and probably as reliable as any file could be.

Field date: 1955-1958
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Geographers-5
Processed in 1966

2: Boissevain, Jeremy. Saints and Fireworks: Religion and Politics in Rural Malta. London School of Economics Monographs on Social Anthropology, No. 30. London: University of London, The Athlone Press: New York: Humanities Press Inc., 1965.

Pp. xii, 156; frontispiece; map; 8 photographs; 8 tables; 2 appendices; bibliography; index.

Personal Copy of T.J. O'Leary. DLC: HN66.05 M3B6 1965. DLC card no.: 65-14845.

/This is a study of Maltese village politics written at a time when antagonisms between the Catholic Church and the Maltese Labor Party were at a peak, and prior to Maltese independence. After a brief background sketch of Malta, the author investigates the dynamics of social interaction between the State, the Church and the political parties in relationship to the villages, including much data on rival groups in the community -- the band clubs whose loyalties center around the cult of saints and who contend bitterly with one another for superior privileges on behalf of their respective saints, and the festa partiti factions who align themselves with the clubs. In the middle of this rivalry is the priest, an outsider, who is quite often used as a pawn by the rival groups to their own advantage. Superimposed on the above rivalries are the conflicting loyalties resulting from the struggle for power between the Church and the national Labor Party, a struggle so fierce that families have been divided over the issues involved. In his discussion of Maltese village politics, the author points out that although there are no administrative links between the local and central governments (e.g., headmen, mayors, councilors), a form of linkage is provided by the Maltese system of patronage-client relationships. The significance and various manifestations of these relationships are presented

2: Boissevain, Jeremy.

in detail in the source. In concluding his work the author indicates that tensions between the various groups mentioned above are kept from erupting into overt violence by the presence of individuals whose loyalties are divided between conflicting sides (e.g., within a family group).

The author carried out his field research for this paper on Malta from July 1960 to September 1961. Much of the data were gathered from two small villages which he has given the fictional names of Farrug and Kortin. In addition to the detailed research in these villages, he made further comparative studies in twelve other communities, with particular attention to general organization of the communities, leadership, and patterns of conflict. The author was accompanied in his field work by his wife. He was further aided in the field by Mr. Edward Micallef, a research assistant./

Field date: 1960-1961
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1966-1967

3: Buxton, L. H. Dudley. The Ethnology of Malta and Gozo. The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 52, pp. 164-211. London, 1922.

7 tables.

Yale: Nk10 +R81 v. 52.

/The material in this source was gathered by the author and his assistants during a two month's field expedition to Malta from December 1920 to January 1921. As background for his study of the physical anthropology and racial affinities of the Maltese, which are the predominating themes in this source, the author presents some summary data on geography, culture history and archaeology and demography. Buxton then describes the manner in which he and his field staff took measurements of representative portions of the living population of Malta and Gozo, and the sampling they used for the anthropometric investigations of the Maltese skeletal materials (bones from the Hypogaeum at Hal Saflieni -- Malta Local Neolithic; miscellaneous ancient skeletons -- chiefly Romano-Maltese; specimens from the Chapel of Bones -- late medieval; and modern bones from an ossuary). The data gathered from the above studies are presented in Appendix 2 at the end of the source (pp. 197-211) in the form of seven tables. The author summarizes his conclusions drawn from these data regarding racial affinities and cultural sequences on Malta on p. 194 of the text./

Field date: 1920-1921
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Physician, Physical Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1966-1967

4: Cassar, Paul. Medical Votive Offerings in the Maltese Islands. The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 94, pp. 23-29. London, 1964.

2 plates.

HRAF Copy.

/This brief paper presents a very interesting study of the "votive" or propitiatory offerings presented to a church or shrine as the fulfillment of a vow by a patient who has been miraculously cured of some disease or disability by divine intervention (primarily by the Virgin Mary in Catholic Malta today). The author discusses the nature of these "ex-votos" offerings -- usually figurines representing parts of the human anatomy (presumably those parts which have been cured) -- and traces their origin back to the Neolithic period in Malta where clay and limestone female figures have been found which the author believes may have been part of a healing cult. Other offerings of the same functional significance are also discussed by the author, primarily the so-called "medical paintings."

On page 28 of the source a discussion is presented on the function of the "votive offerings" as a form of anxiety-reducing mechanism in the society./

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Psychologist-4, 5
Processed in 1966-1967.

5: Cremona, A. Maltese Death, Mourning, and Funeral Customs. Folk-Lore, Vol. 34, pp. 352-357. London: Published for the Folk-Lore Society by William Glaisher, Ltd., 1923.

Yale: Nkg10 F72 v. 82-83.

/This paper presents a brief account of Maltese funeral and mourning customs as compiled by the author from various sources of information. Cultural modifications in the observance of these practices with time are noted in this source, as well as class differences, and similarities to comparable customs in other Mediterranean countries, primarily Sicily and Italy./

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Folklorist-3,4
Processed in 1966-1967

6: Beeley, Brian William. The Farmer and Rural Society in Malta: A Report of the Colonial Economic Research Committee Project C.D.W. (R) No. 764. Durham, England: Department of Geography, Durham Colleges in the University of Durham, 1959.

Pp. viii, 186; 10 maps (mimeographed).

Cornell University, Albert R. Mann Library: HD2060.4 M3 B41.

[The author gives an account of the present-day socio-economic situation of the Maltese farmer. The farming class is in an economic and social disadvantage to the urban working class. As a result there is a strong tendency to leave farming for the sake of wage-labor. Many case histories, census and statistical materials are provided. Footnotes appearing in the text will be found in category 116, pp. 184-188.]

Field date: 1957-1958
Analyst: Sigrid Khera

Evaluation: Geographer-5
Processed in 1967-1968

7: Busuttil, V. Holiday Customs in Malta and Sports, Usages, Ceremonies, Omens & Superstitions of the Maltese People. Malta: Printed by L. Busuttil, 1894.

Pp. viii, 158.

Harvard University: Ital. 5556.5. DLC order no.: HCL 14-2935.

[This source is divided into three sections the first of which presents a summary of the various religious and secular holidays observed by the Maltese throughout the calendar year. The author describes the manner in which the holidays are observed, and comments on their possible origin and distribution in various European countries from the accounts of early writers and historians. The second part of the source provides some ethnographic information on games and athletic events, annual and monthly fairs, funerals, weddings and the sex status of women. The final section of the work deals with various omens and superstitions of the Maltese, with some limited data on magical therapy.

Although the source is limited to the end of the 19th century in coverage, the data presented are apparently still pertinent to the customs in effect to this day on Malta.

The author, a native Maltese, was at the time of the writing head-master of the government school at Vittoriosa.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Indigene, Educator-4,5
Processed in 1966

8: Brockman, Eric. Maltese Memories "Tifkiriet." London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1938.

Pp. 144; frontispiece; 3 plates.

[Yale: Bm99 7. DLC: DG990.B7. DLC card No.: 39-9218.]

Only pp. 101-141 and the accompanying plate have been processed for this file.

/The author attempts to show in this source how many of the ancient Maltese customs which he calls "The Old Things" have been preserved and modified to fit the modern Maltese pattern. This he demonstrates in regard to birth customs, the 'uccija or choosing ceremony for the child, the spirit world and religion in general, literature, adult status in the society, beliefs about nature, marriage, superstitions, religious holidays, and customs associated with death. The source relies heavily on secondary sources of information, especially Busuttil (see 7: Busuttil, this file) and adds little ethnographic information to what is already to be found in the file. The author's interpretations of various cultural phenomena should be read with caution by the researcher, since Brockman, at the time of this writing, had no apparent professional training in anthropology and was visiting Malta as simply an English traveler./

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Traveler-8
Processed in 1966

9: Luke, Harry C. Malta: an Account and an Appreciation. Second edition revised and enlarged. London, Toronto, Sydney, Wellington: George C. Harrap & Co., Ltd., 1960.

Pp. 256; 63 photographs; 10 text figures; 2 maps.

Library of Congress: DG990.L84 1960. DLC card no.: 60-51229.

Only the frontispiece, pp. 1-30, 202-227, 234-251 and various miscellaneous plates between pp. 31-201 have been processed for this file.

/This source provides a general coverage of Maltese geography, history and archeology, population, language, religion and religious ceremonials and dress, and is particularly helpful in depicting the various functions of the government in the Maltese economy, including some data on the relationship of the State and the established church of Malta. The concluding section presents an excellent account of the post-World War 2 developments in Maltese politics, including relationships with Great Britain at this time, and the various intricacies of political behavior leading eventually to the establishment of a formal constitution which officially went into effect on April 15, 1959./

Field date: ca. 1920-ca.1960
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1966-1968